IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Prior Application: R. NAKATANI et al

USSN 10/270,120

Filed: October 15, 2002

Group Art Unit:

2652

Examiner:

C. Renner

For:

MAGNETORESISTANCE EFFECT ELEMENTS, MAGNETIC HEADS AND MAGNETIC STORAGE

APPARATUS

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

November 5, 2003

Sir:

Prior to examination, please amend the above application as follows.